

3. (Once Amended) A cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 which contains or consists of the sequence of amino acids present in a naturally occurring conotoxin peptide or derivative thereof.

5. (Once Amended) A cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 having three disulphide bonds in the form of a cysteine knot.

6. (Once Amended) A cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 comprising a linear conotoxin peptide and a peptide linker, wherein the N- and C- termini of the linear peptide are linked via the peptide linker to form an amide cyclised peptide backbone.

10. (Once Amended) A cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

CKGKGAKCSRLMYDCCTGSCRSGKCTRNLPG SEQ. ID NO. 5

CKGKGAKCSRLMYDCCTGSCRSGKCTRNG SEQ. ID NO. 6

GLPVCKGKGAKCSRLMYDCCTGSCRSGKCTRNG SEQ. ID NO. 7

GCCSNPVCHLEHSNLCTNG SEQ. ID NO. 8

CCSNPVCHLEHSNLCTNGG SEQ. ID NO. 9

11. (Once Amended) A process for preparing a cyclic conotoxin according to claim 1 comprising:

(i) synthesizing an extended linear conotoxin peptide on a solid phase support, said extended linear conotoxin peptide comprising a linear conotoxin peptide having a linker moiety attached to at least one end thereof,

- (ii) cleaving said extended linear peptide from the support
- (iii) cyclising said extended linear conotoxin peptide, and
- (iv) oxidizing said cyclised peptide to form disulphide bonds.

12. (Once Amended) A process for preparing a cyclic conotoxin according to claim 1 comprising:

(i) synthesizing an extended linear conotoxin peptide on a solid phase support, said extended linear conotoxin peptide comprising a linear conotoxin peptide having a linker moiety attached to at least one end thereof,

(ii) cleaving said linear peptide from the solid support,

(iii) subjecting said extended peptide to conditions such that the peptide folds and forms the required disulphide bonds, and

(iv) cyclising the folded peptide.

13. (Once Amended) A process for preparing a cyclic conotoxin according to claim 1 comprising:

(i) reacting a conotoxin peptide with a linker moiety to form an extended linear conotoxin peptide having said linker moiety attached to one end thereof, and

(ii) cyclising said extended peptide and oxidizing to form disulphide bonds, if required.

14. (Once Amended) Use of a cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 having activity at ion channel receptors as a neuropharmacological probe.

15. (Once Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of conditions or diseases in mammals including the step of administering a cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1.

16. (Once Amended) Use of a cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 in the